

# WASHINGTON.

"LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1864.

## ARBITRARY ARRESTS.

On Monday last Mr. Senator POWELL, of Kentucky, introduced into the Senate a resolution requesting the President of the United States to communicate to that body all information in his possession bearing on the arrest and imprisonment of Col. Richard T. Jacobs, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Kentucky, and Col. Frank Wolford, one of the Presidential electors of that State; particularly by whose order they were arrested and imprisoned, where they are at present confined, and what offences are charged against them.

On the following day (Tuesday) Mr. POWELL called up the resolution for consideration, when Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, urged that priority should be given to a bill, pending in the Senate, which had for its object to secure the freedom of the wives and children of all negroes who have been or may be mustered into the military or naval service of the United States. Mr. Wilson, however, finally waived his objections to the consideration of Mr. Powell's resolution, which was thus brought before the Senate for final action.

Mr. HOWARD, of Michigan, having objected to the consideration of the resolution on the ground that it proposed to "convert the Senate into a sort of inquisition to use its power in the enforcement of inquiries into matters which pertain exclusively to the Executive," Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, objected to this view in the following terms:

"The Senator from Kentucky, representing his State, says that two men in that State have been arrested, and he knows not for what they have been arrested. He says that they have been arrested, and he knows not whether they have been arrested. It is not our duty to make any inquiry in regard to a question of that kind? Are we going to be entirely indifferent to the liberties of the people of this country?"

"I am not sent here, Mr. President, for the purpose of giving with my arms folded in silence and in quiet, and with no vote in favor of an inquiry of this kind. I have no doubt that when the inquiry shall be pursued properly there will be a perfect vindication of the officers of the Government. I have no sort of question that these men were properly arrested, and after the statements that have been made here by the Senator from Kentucky, I am anxious that his resolution should be adopted, in order that the inquiry will vindicate them; but if it be otherwise, if these men have been improperly arrested, then it is the duty of the Senate to say so, and to put its seal of reprobation upon those who have thus improperly arrested them."

"Mr. President, I trust that this Senate is not going to sit quietly by, when charges are made here by the Senator representing a State of arbitrary conduct on the part of any of the officers of this Government, refuse to make any inquiry because it is claimed that to do so would be a proceeding of a quasi judicial character. It is one of the prerogatives of this body to protect the liberties of the people of the States and the rights and interests of the States themselves."

Mr. JOHNSON, of Maryland, supported the resolution of inquiry, and instanced similar cases of arbitrary arrests which had come within his knowledge, but which he believed had been undertaken and enforced by military subalterns, without authority of the President, and sometimes without his privity until it was too late to countermand them. In illustration of these statements he said:

"Congress passed, some two years ago, I think, an act which was intended to put an end, in a measure, to the principal injustice which was the result, and sure to be the result, of these military arrests; and in all cases, as provided by that act, where the parties were not liable to military control, the persons charged were to be handed over to the civil tribunals, and, if an indictment was not found within a limited period, they were to be discharged. I speak knowingly when I say to the Senate that that law has been altogether disregarded in Maryland, and that it has equally been disregarded within this District. Men without number have been arrested, and have been handed over, not to the civil tribunals for trial, but to military commissions, and have been convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary, and are now, some of them, suffering under those sentences."

"These military gentlemen—I speak not of the President of the United States—seem to think that they are under no obligation at all to observe the civil laws; not only not bound to observe the laws of the States where they happen to be located at the time, but not bound to observe the laws of Congress; and they not only assume jurisdiction, but I know, if I know any thing of law, that they have from time to time, and indeed constantly, convicted upon evidence that would not be received in any court of civil justice in the country."

"But I rose more especially to state a case which will show the Senate the great extent to which this usurpation of authority has been extended. At the late election in Maryland, when the question before the people was whether the constitution framed by the Convention who had that subject under their consideration should be adopted by the people or not, a gentleman of Caroline county, Union from the beginning of this civil strife, and Union still, offered to vote, and took the oath prescribed, every one of them, answered every question propounded to him, but was refused, and he used the pledge of election, as he had a perfect right to do. The military commander in Baltimore, by some persons immediately in the neighborhood where the fact occurred, being informed of it, the gentleman was arrested, having committed no offence at all unless (if that be an offence) using the judge for refusing to receive his vote, brought to the city of Baltimore, thrown into prison, and I believe is there still. He was not only thrown into prison and kept in prison, but his friends were not permitted to see him, and have not been permitted, as I believe, since to see him. This is one case."

"The last election in our State for members of our Legislature resulted in the choice of a majority of citizens who were called Democrats. There was a majority of two in the Senate of Maryland. One of them, elected from one of our counties, said to be a timid man, was threatened with arrest if he did not resign, and he resigned. But that left a majority still. In the county of Somerset, where a Democrat was elected, receiving a majority of between three and four thousand votes, he received a very polite letter from the General in command, asking him in substance whether he thought it was right that he should take his seat in the Senate of Maryland, as he had raised a rebel flag in April, 1861, upon his own premises. He replied to it—I have the reply by me—courteously, denying the charge, protesting that it was altogether false, asking permission to satisfy the Major General that it was false, saying that he would come up at any moment in order to lay before him the proofs which he said he had to establish the fact of its falsehood. And the reply to the request was a file of soldiers and his arrest; and he was brought to the city of Baltimore, thrown into the most loathsome dungeon, which had formerly been used as a mere slave pen, without bed clothing to lie upon, and the next day, without investigation and opportunity for defence, he was sent South by order of the Major General."

Mr. POWELL. Will the Senator from Maryland allow me to ask who that Major General was?

Mr. JOHNSON. Major General Wallace. The President was informed of it, and at the time he was informed of it he was told that the order had not been executed.

He immediately sent a despatch requesting that nothing more should be done, and the answer to the despatch was that the man had been sent South already.

"Now, whether he is guilty of raising the rebel flag in 1861 or not I have no personal knowledge; nor have I any personal knowledge of the gentleman himself; but he is represented to me to be a man of the highest possible character, a man of unimpeached integrity, and whose word would be taken by every body who knows him. I have no doubt that Col. Wallace has acted under the impression that he was discharging a duty; representations have been made to him upon the faith of which he has acted; but in his desire to perform his duty and to rid Maryland of those whom he supposed were traitors he forgot that every citizen of Maryland has a right to be heard when he is charged with an offence."

"It may be, Mr. President, that upon the ground of military necessity, in the beginning of this dreadful war, aiming as it did at the very life of the nation, these arrests were unavoidable; but thank God it is not so now; thank God it seems now to be approaching its end, and the end will be the restoration of the Union; but let the Senate of the United States, if upon reasons of military necessity they have heretofore refused to interfere, say now that in suppressing the rebellion they mean to preserve the rights of the loyal citizens."

"The case to which I have adverted is now under the examination, as I understand, of the President of the United States, and I have confidence in him as a lawyer and as a humane man, as one willing, to the extent of his knowledge, to maintain the rights of the citizen, and as a man anxious, as much as any other man living, to execute justice in mercy, that he will see that no possible harm shall fall upon a citizen of Maryland without cause."

The resolution, after this discussion, was adopted by the Senate without opposition from any quarter.

## FUTURE POLITICAL ISSUES.

The New York World, which, more than any other paper of its party, may be regarded as a typical exponent of the present attitude and future tendencies of Democratic opinion, expresses the belief that slavery is in a rapid process of disappearance as an element of political discussion likely to furnish points of difference between loyal citizens. To this effect it says:

"Before another Presidential election the abolition question, for example, will probably be in such a state that past ideas will not apply. As the problem advances toward its predetermined solution, we shall see public opinion more and more disposed to acquiesce in the manifest tendency of events. Before the expiration of the next lease of power, the Republican party will have secured a constitutional amendment for the entire extinction of slavery in the United States. If the South should, meanwhile, gain its independence, slavery can be no longer a question of Federal policy; but if we disarm Southern resistance, the anti-slavery amendment will have been put in force, and have done its work before the Democratic party can be in power. Why should the party bind itself to a dead corpse?"

"Unless the Democratic party is blind enough to run the hazard of disintegration, it must distinguish between questions virtually settled and questions that still remain open. It must so far keep pace with events as to accept their logic. Public opinion has no efficiency without political combination; but for masses large enough to form a majority to act in concert, thought must be left free on all questions save those which rank as living, vital issues. The number who oppose the abolition of slavery (now a minority) is not likely to grow larger, but to grow less, with the progress of time. Every Democrat can, and should, hold whatever opinion he chooses on the slavery question. Such opinions are no longer of the slightest political consequence. Individual Democrats will think what they please; but the subject must be dismissed from the range of topics on which the party is expected to have distinctive views. There is no conceivable position on the slavery question on which the Democratic party can plant itself, and become a majority. Its antecedents and associations, as well as its respect for the Constitution as it stands, forbid it to become an abolition party; the progress of events and the tendency of public opinion, forbid it to become a party in the form into which it is certain to be amended, forbid it to commit itself to the fortunes of a moribund institution."

We do not doubt that the World gives counsel with its usual sagacity when it advises the party of which it is a leading organ not to "commit itself to the fortunes of a moribund institution." We do not understand that any loyal upholder of the Federal Government has ever proposed to "commit" either himself or the Government to the support of the "moribund institution" of slavery, as the World calls it, though there are many who make it a condition of "loyalty" that all who uphold the Federal Government shall join in giving an anti-slavery direction to the war.

The political relations of slavery being thus, according to the view of the World, in a process of obsolescence, it suggests to its political friends that they have a "better chance to gain the public ear and to render valuable service to the country" by giving their attention to current and emergent questions connected with the financial policy of the Government. It says:

"A vast debt and a great war are objects of deep solicitude with all thinking men. To pay the interest on the one and to support the other will put upon the resources of the country an increasing strain, which must give a new turn to our politics as the pressure is more and more felt. The country already begins to stagger under the burden."

## THE NEW DRAFT.

We publish in another column the proclamation of the President calling for a new levy of three hundred thousand men. A Washington letter says that the War Department intends that this new requisition shall produce the number of men called for. The last call produced but forty per cent. of the amount. "Running to Canada and elsewhere was a very large leak in the last endeavor to recruit the army. Plenty of time to do this was allowed. The draft will be fetched up with a short turn this time. It is understood that a system of passports, to be rigidly enforced at Detroit, Buffalo, Suspension Bridge, and Sacket's Harbor, will be invoked to hold men to the sacred duty of fighting for their country."

It seems that this call of the President for three hundred thousand more men swells the total number called into the army, since the commencement of the war, to 3,258,846. The Journal of Commerce enumerates as follows the several calls:

Raised in 1861, as per report of Secretary Cameron, for three months.....	77,575
Raised in the same year, as per same report, for three years.....	660,971
Call of July 1st, 1862 (3 years' men).....	300,000
Call of August 4th, 1862, for militia (nine months' men).....	300,000
Call for militia of certain States June 15th, 1863, to repel invasion of Pennsylvania.....	120,000
Draft of July, 1863 (3 years' men).....	300,000
Number raised since October 17th, as per statement of Senator Wilson.....	700,000
Call of July 18th, 1864 (one year men).....	500,000
Last call, December 19, 1864.....	300,000
Total.....	3,258,846

At the last meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History a report was made by a member upon the effect of pulverized borax upon the water bug and cockroaches that infest our houses. The experiment was tried by sprinkling it around every crack and crevice susceptible of affording shelter to these insects, with this effect: that after three or four days quantities of dead ones were found on the floor, and hardly a live one could be found in the house.

## SALTVILLE NOT CAPTURED.

The Richmond Sentinel of Saturday says: "The reported capture of the salt works is not correct. The last heard of the raiders they were making in the direction of Wytheville. The salt works are considered safe. There is ample force under the command of a skillful General, in a position to protect the works."

The Boston Post says: "One of our merchants yesterday paid the excise on 700 barrels domestic spirits, which amounted to the snug little sum of sixty-six thousand three hundred dollars."

## THE SIEGE OF SAVANNAH.

SHERMAN'S OPERATIONS IN GEORGIA—THE CAPTURE OF FORT McALLISTER.

The Secretary of War announces the receipt of despatches from Gen. Foster, who had a personal interview on the morning of Wednesday, the 14th instant, with Gen. Sherman, at Fort McAllister, which had been taken by assault on the preceding day. Savannah was closely besieged, and its capture, with the rebel forces there, was confidently expected. General Foster reports that Sherman's army "is in splendid condition, having lived on its march on turkeys, chickens, sweet potatoes, and other good things of the richest part of Georgia." The march was feebly resisted.

## REBEL ACCOUNTS.

The Richmond papers of Friday, the 16th instant, state, on the authority of official despatches, that on Wednesday, the 14th, General Sherman carried Fort McAllister, commanding the entrance to the Ogeechee river, by storm, and that the capture of this position put Sherman in communication with our fleet, and "will necessitate the reinforcement of Savannah."

The Richmond Dispatch says: "The garrison of the fort consisted of one hundred and fifty men. Fort McAllister is on the Ogeechee river, fifteen miles southwest of Savannah, at the point where the river is crossed by the Savannah, Albany, and Gulf railroad, and about six miles from Ogeechee Sound. The capture of this position put Sherman in communication with the Yankees fleet. Without attempting any military criticism, we cannot withhold the opinion that the exposing of one hundred men to the assault of Sherman's whole army was a piece of extravagance that Sherman's present military resources do not seem to warrant."

The Examiner says: "Fort McAllister commands the entrance to the Ogeechee river, and has prevented the enemy heretofore from ascending the river. We believe there are other works further up the stream which would render the navigation of the stream by the enemy extremely uncomfortable. The fall of Fort McAllister does not by any means involve the loss of Savannah, but will necessitate the reinforcement of the troops defending that city."

## OFFICIAL DESPATCH FROM GEN. SHERMAN. HIS POSITION BEFORE SAVANNAH.

The War Department has received an official despatch from Gen. Sherman, dated near midnight of December 13th, on the gunboat Dandelion, Ogeechee Sound. It was written before Gen. Foster had reached him. He reports, in addition to some details of future operations, the following interesting particulars of his victorious march through Georgia and of his investment of the city of Savannah:

ON BOARD DANDELION, Ogeechee Sound, Dec. 13—11.50 P. M. To-day at 5 P. M. Gen. Hazen's division of the Fifteenth Corps carried Fort McAllister by assault, capturing its entire garrison and stores. This opened to us the Ogeechee Sound, and I pulled down this gunboat to communicate with the fleet.

Before opening communication we had completely destroyed all the railroads leading into Savannah and invested the city. The left is on the Savannah river, three miles above the city, and the right on the Ogeechee, at King's Bridge.

The army is in splendid order and equal to any thing. The weather has been fine, and supplies abundant. Our march was most agreeable, and we were not at all molested by guerrillas.

We reached Savannah three days ago, but owing to Fort McAllister we could not communicate, but now we have McAllister we can go ahead. We have already captured two boats in the Savannah river and prevented their gunboats from coming down.

I estimate the population of Savannah at twenty-five thousand and the garrison at fifteen thousand. Gen. Hardee commands.

We have not lost a wagon in the trip, but have gathered in a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and our teams are in far better condition than when we started. My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes, mules, and horses.

We have utterly destroyed over two hundred miles of railroad, and consumed stores and provisions that were essential to Lee's and Hood's armies.

The quick work made by Fort McAllister, and the opening communication with our fleet, and consequent independence for supplies, dispels all their boasted threats to head me off and starve the army. I regard Savannah as already gained.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, Major General.

## LATEST FROM SAVANNAH.

The transport steamer Fulton, from Port Royal on the 15th, reports that Savannah was still in the hands of the rebels. Its surrender had not been demanded when the Fulton sailed. Major General Slocum's corps holds all the approaches on the north side of Savannah, including all the railroads leading out of the town. Gen. Howard's army connects with his right, and swings around to the Ogeechee river at Fort McAllister.

Gen. Sherman is reported to have secured on his march and brought with him seven thousand able-bodied negroes, twelve hundred head of cattle, and so many horses, mules, and wagons as to seriously embarrass him. His total loss of men, from all causes, during the march, was only about one thousand in both wings of the army. The particulars of the storming of Fort McAllister are thus stated:

"At half-past four o'clock on Wednesday morning Gen. Hazen placed his division in position, with another division of the Fifteenth Corps as a support, and when all his preparations were completed the order was given, and his gallant division, eager for a fight, marched at a double quick step forward, penetrated the abatis surrounding the fort, plunged through the ditch, and scaled the parapets of the fort—ten feet in height—and swarmed into the work under a hot fire, which while it cut down many, failed to check the advance. Most of the rebels were killed, the garrison, bewildered by the sudden sweep of our veterans, surrendered in haste, but others stood by their guns and fought until they were bayoneted or cut down. The work was quickly performed, and not an armed rebel remained within the fort three minutes after the parapets were crossed by our seasoned veterans, and the cheer of victory rang out clearly in the misty morning air, and announced success to the eager troops stretching around the doomed city of Savannah. The substantial results of our victory are two hundred and more prisoners, twenty-one heavy guns and a large quantity of ordnance and subsistence supplies, and, in a still more substantial way, an open port, through which Gen. Sherman can draw all his needed supplies around his men, and can make his investment of Savannah perfectly secure so far as the question of subsistence is concerned."

Charleston papers to the 15th contain little news, and seem to know but little of the movements of Gen. Sherman. We extract the following referring to the capture of Fort McAllister:

"We have no very full budget of intelligence from Savannah. Sherman seems, for the present, to have abandoned the direct attack on the city, and appears to be turning his attention to the reduction of the outworks."

"We regret to announce the fall of Fort McAllister. That post was carried early yesterday morning by assault, in which a heavy column of Sherman's best troops participated. It is believed that the enemy will next make a desperate effort to gain possession of Georgia Point. We have heard no details of the assault or of the casualties."

"Along the line of the Charleston and Savannah railroad all continues quiet. The Yankees, while at Gordon, Ga., stated that they would soon enter South Carolina, and that they would not leave a house standing in the State."

The frequent capture, by the Confederates, of supplies sent from Kansas and Missouri to Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Fort Scott, Kansas, by the overland route, has elicited an order directing that hereafter supplies shall be forwarded to Fort Smith and other military posts on the Arkansas frontier, by way of Cairo and Memphis, and thence by river to the point of destination. One capture made recently by the Confederates included eleven thousand complete suits of soldiers' clothing."

## THE WAR IN TENNESSEE.

A BATTLE AND A VICTORY—HOOD ASSAILED AND DRIVEN FROM HIS WORKS.

The following official despatch from Gen. Thomas, announces a successful assault by his forces upon Hood's army, in front of Nashville, on Thursday last:

"NASHVILLE, DECEMBER, 15—9 P. M. "We attacked the enemy's left this morning and drove it from the river below the city, very nearly to the Franklin pike—distance about eight miles. We have captured Chalmers' headquarters and train, and a second train of about twenty wagons, with between eight hundred and a thousand prisoners, and sixteen pieces of artillery. Our troops behaved splendidly, all taking their share in assaulting and carrying the enemy's breastworks. I shall attack the enemy again to-morrow, if he stands to fight; and if he retreats during the night, will pursue him, throwing a heavy cavalry force in his rear to destroy his trains, if possible. GEO. H. THOMAS, Major General."

## UNOFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE.

NASHVILLE, (TENN.) DEC. 15, 1864. The army commenced moving at daybreak to day with Gen. Steedman's Corps on our left, the Fourth Corps next, and then A. J. Smith's Corps. The cavalry force moved to the right and the Twenty-third Corps was held in reserve.

Very little except reconnoitering was done until after midnight, but at half-past twelve o'clock the order to advance was given and the whole column moved onward.

The rebels evidently expected that Gen. Thomas would attempt to turn their left flank. All the indications would seem to us to suppose this, and they offered numerous inducements for us to do so, and had carefully prepared their lines to receive our forces if we should attack them in that quarter.

To keep up the delusion Steedman's command was ordered to skirmish heavily on the rebel left flank, and he moved forward in the direction of the point which the rebels believed we were threatening.

While Steedman was maneuvering in this manner, the rebels were massing on their left, and we were concentrating the Sixteenth and Twenty-third Corps and Gen. Wilson's cavalry on our right.

The result of this was that when the bugles sounded the advance our right advanced rapidly between the lines of the rebels and the Cumberland river, completely doubling upon a rebel division which the rebels had posted to blockade the river. A battery was taken here by our forces and sent to the rear.

The rebels had by this time perceived that our attack was directed heavily on the rebel left flank, and he moved forward in the direction of the point which the rebels believed we were threatening.

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entrenchments, capturing all the artillery and troops of the enemy on the line.

Brig. Gen. Wood's troops, on the Franklin pike, took up the assault, carrying the enemy's entrenchments, in his retreat captured eight pieces of artillery, something over six hundred prisoners, and drove the enemy within one mile of the Brentwood Hill Pass.

Major Gen. Steedman, commanding detachments of the different armies of the Military Division of the Mississippi, most nobly supported Gen. Wood's left, and bore a most honorable part in the operations of the day.

I have ordered the pursuit to be continued in the morning at daylight, although the troops are very much fatigued. The utmost enthusiasm prevails.

I must not forget to report the operations of Brig. Gen. Johnson in successfully driving the enemy, with the co-operation of the gunboats under Lieutenant Commander Fitch, from the established batteries on the Cumberland river, below the city of Nashville, and of the success of Brig. Gen. Croxson's brigade in covering and returning our right and rear. Although I have no report of the number of prisoners captured by Johnson's and Croxson's commands, I know they have made a large number.

I am glad to be able to state that the number of prisoners captured yesterday greatly exceeds the number reported by telegraph last evening. The woods, fields, and entrenchments are strewn with the enemy's small arms abandoned in their retreat.

In conclusion, I am happy to state that all this has been effected with but a very small loss to us. Our loss does not exceed three thousand, and very few killed.

GEO. H. THOMAS, Major General.

## THE ROUT AND PURSUIT OF HOOD'S ARMY—MORE GUNS AND PRISONERS CAPTURED.

The following extracts from late official despatches of Gen. Thomas have been published by the Secretary of War:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, Near Franklin, (Tenn.) December 17, 1864.

A report just reached me from Major Gen. Wilson states that at six o'clock P. M. to-day he attacked and dispersed Stevenson's division of rebel infantry, and a brigade of cavalry, capturing three guns. The Fourth United States Cavalry, Hatch's division of cavalry, supported by Knipe's division of cavalry, did the work, making several beautiful charges, breaking the rebel infantry in all directions. Had it only been light, the rebel rear-guard would have been entirely destroyed. As it is, it has been severely punished. The whole army will continue the vigorous pursuit in the morning. This attack was made six miles beyond Franklin.

GEO. H. THOMAS, Major General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF CUMBERLAND, Near Franklin, (Tenn.) December 17—3 P. M.

We have pressed the enemy to day beyond Franklin, capturing his hospitals, containing over fifteen hundred of his wounded and about one hundred and fifty of our wounded